

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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☐ 2235 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2007
(202) 225-4741
FAX: (202) 225-3178

☐ DISTRICT OFFICES:
1010 PARK AVENUE
SUITE 105
BALTIMORE, MD 21201-5037
(410) 685-9199
FAX: (410) 685-9399

☐ 754 FREDERICK ROAD
CATONSVILLE, MD 21228-4504
(410) 719-8777
FAX: (410) 455-0110

☐ 8267 MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043-9903
(410) 465-8259
FAX: (410) 465-8740

www.house.gov/cummings

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

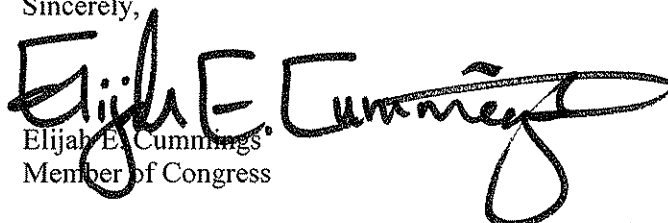
Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write today in support of the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) applications for funding under the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants program. Projects for which MDOT has requested funding include the following:

- **MARC Capacity and Service Reliability Improvements:** This project would improve service on the MARC regional passenger rail system, divert freight off of highways, and reduce fuel use and emissions along the CSXT Camden and Brunswick Lines leading to our nation's capitol.
- **Central Maryland Transit Maintenance Facility:** This project would increase the capacity of local, State, and Department of Defense (DoD)-funded transit (bus and van) services to move the existing regional population and the growing numbers of DoD employees at both Fort Meade and the National Security Agency resulting from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.
- **Masonville Vessel Berth 3:** This project would enable the Maryland Port Administration to construct a new pier at the Port of Baltimore, which is currently the number two port in the nation for exporting U.S.-made automobiles.

These projects were selected after an extensive project solicitation and review period that involved coordination between MDOT and potential partners to select State- and locally-prioritized projects with the highest probability of success. If Maryland is given the opportunity to implement these TIGER-funded projects, I am confident the State will implement them in the same expeditious manner in which it has already implemented highway and transit projects under ARRA and these projects will yield significant long-term benefits. It is with this in mind that I hope Maryland's TIGER applications will be given every reasonable consideration.

Sincerely,


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress